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35.C14008

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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: Examiner: Unknown
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: Group Art Unit: 3851
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) February 23, 2000
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Assistant Commissioner For Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are enclosed, together with an English language Abstract for each of the Japanese patent documents. The Japanese documents may be relevant for the

reasons discussed at pages 28, 33, 41 and 46 of the specification.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following copending U.S. patent applications:

Appln. No.	Filing Date	Group Art Unit	<u>Status</u>
09/363,655	July 30, 1999	2722	Pending
09/361,968	July 28, 1999	2721	Pending

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), no copy of the cited U.S. applications is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants submit that no fee is required for consideration of this information since, to the best of their knowledge, no Office Action has been mailed. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees necessary for consideration of this information to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address. Respectfully submitted, Registration No. 36,570 FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3801 Facsimile: (212) 218-2200 BLK/fdb - 3 -DC_MAIN 15751 v 1